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**Central Falls High School**



**Introduction**

Central Falls High is located at 24 Summer St in Central Falls, RI. It is the only high school located in the Central Falls. Currently, there is 813 students enrolled at the high school and the guy/girl ratio is 55% guys and 45% girls. Also, the student body is made up of 89% minorities.

**Community Background**

**Income**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Central Falls** | **Rhode Island** | **US** |
| **Median household income** | **$29,268** | **$56,102** | **$53,046** |
| **Median family income** | **$35,222** | **$72,872** | **$64,585** |
| **Per capita income** | **$14,973** | **$30,005** | **$28,051** |
| **All families below poverty level** | **27%** | **9.2%** | **10.9%** |
| **All people below the poverty level** | **30.4%** | **13.2%** | **14.9%** |

Based on the table, the Central Falls Community is nowhere near the income levels of the state or the country. The fact that the median household and median family incomes are near half of what the state’s and country’s data is unbelievable. The thing about median household income is that there could be more than one family living in a household so the data is altered because of it. The data collected about being below the poverty is atrocious- in Central Falls all families below poverty level is 27% and all people below the poverty level is 30.4%. Considering that for all families below the poverty in the state and country is about 10% and for all people below the poverty level in state and country is around 13%-15% is crazy, to think that Central Falls is double the percentage than that of the state and country. To potentially fix these problems, there needs to be more cash flow through the businesses so they can thrive and this will help the surrounding area. Also, more funding in public schools and other town areas will increase the potential for success.

**Race/Ethnicity**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Central Falls** | **Rhode Island** | **US** |
| **White** | **42.5%** | **81.4%** | **72.4%** |
| **Black/ African Americans** | **8.1%** | **5.7%** | **12.6%** |
| **Asian** | **0.5%** | **2.9%** | **4.8%** |
| **Hispanic or Latino** | **48.5%** | **12.4%** | **16.3%** |
| **American Indian and Alaska native** | **0.4%** | **0.6%** | **0.9%** |

Looking at the graph, there are two big differences between Central Falls and the Rhode Island and US categories. First, in the White section, Central Falls is composed of 42.5% and Rhode Island has an 81.4% of whites. Understanding the fact that Central Falls had almost half the percentage of whites that the state of Rhode Island has staggering. Central Falls is located in Rhode Island so that goes to show how much of an urban community Central Falls is. Second, the Hispanic/ Latino section is a noticeable difference. In Central Falls, there is a 48.5% of the Hispanic/Latino race while in Rhode Island it is 12.4% and in the US it is 16.3%. Showing once again, the community of Central Falls is an urban area.

**District Summary**

**Attendance**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **State** | **Central Falls** | **Barrington** | **Pawtucket** |
| Attendance Rate (Elementary Schools) | 95% | 93% | 96% | 95% |
| Attendance Rate (Middle Schools) | 94% | 92% | 96% | 93% |
| Attendance Rate (High Schools) | 92% | 88% | 96% | 90% |
| Attendance Rate (All Schools) | 94% | 92% | 96% | 93% |
| Chronic Absenteeism | 24% | 40% | 7% | 35% |

Based on the table above regarding attendance in the districts, the Central Falls District column of data is below the state and Barrington district data. The only category that Central Falls has the highest percentage is in Chronic Absenteeism, which is not something that you strive towards. The students at Central Falls are more likely to not attend school while the Barrington School District excellent attendance percentages. But when comparing Central Falls to Barrington, it is comparing a very urban area to an affluent white community. Comparing Central Falls to Pawtucket, they are similar due to the fact they are located in the same type of area.

**School Analysis**

Central Falls High School is recovering academically from some of the worst test scores in the state a few years ago. Because of the terrible scores, the entire faculty was fired and the school could only rehire a certain percent of the staff back. Unfortunately most of the teachers left for other jobs or just did not return to the school, so they had to hire a significant number of new teachers. Since the firings, the school has been slowly recovering and doing better academically.

**NECAP Exams**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | State | Central Falls | Barrington | Pawtucket |
| 11th Grade Math | 35% | 12% | 79% | 15% |
| 11th Grade Reading | 81% | 53% | 98% | 61% |
| 11th Grade Writing | 66% | 35% | 82% | 54% |
| 11th Grade Science | 30% | 8% | 58% | 11% |

Looking at the NECAP Exam percentages, it is noticeable that Central Falls has the lower percentages. Even though the state percentages are average scores, Central Falls is significantly lower. Then, looking at Barrington the scores are exceptionally high. Also, comparing the percentages between Central Falls and Pawtucket there are many similarities which shows that the urban area schools are scoring lower than affluent suburban areas.

**Four-year Graduation Rate (Students entering grade 9 in 2009-10)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **State** | **Central Falls** | **Barrington** | **Pawtucket** |
| **% Graduated within 4 yrs** | **79.7%** | **73.8%** | **95.6%** | **83.3%** |
| **% Dropped out** | **9.1%** | **14.8%** | **1.2%** | **8.6%** |
| **% Received GED** | **2.9%** | **1.9%** | **0.4%** | **4.1%** |
| **% Still in School** | **8.3%** | **9.5%** | **2.8%** | **4.0%** |

The table above displaying the Four-year Graduation Rate shows that Central Falls is around the State percentages, except for percentage of drop outs. Per usual, Barrington’s data is great percentages. It’s worth noting that there are some discrepancies between Central Falls and Pawtucket schools, none of the percentages are truly similar. The percentages are on different parts of the spectrum with the other data.

**Conclusion**

Central Falls High School is located in the Central Falls District right outside of Pawtucket. The school has academically ridiculed because of their low test scores and poor graduation rates. The fact that school had to fire its entire staff and only hired some of the faculty back was a serious blow. The school has started to rebound and make improvements academically. Unfortunately, they never get any recognition because they are always compared to affluent suburban schools such as Barrington where they are more likely to succeed. Central Falls, as a community, district, and public school, is overall a below average urban area.

**References**

* “U.S. Census Bureau Fact Sheet.” Factfinder.census.gov. 2012-2013. Web.
* “RI Kids Count.” Rikidscount.org/matriarch/documents. 2012-2013. Web.
* "Central Falls Senior High School." US News. U.S.News & World Report